

WIKIPEDIAS , GOOGLE and the LIBRARY OF CONGRESS: LATEST ADVANCES, NEWEST FEATURES, and YouTube, Wikipedia SPIN-OFFs, for STUDENTS, TEACHERS, EDUCATORS JULY 22, 2009 IRO Stephen Perry, Washington, D.C.

VIDEOS TO EXPLAIN TECHNOLOGY:

Common Craft Videos for explaining the latest in Technology, in simple, plain English:

The excellent [Common Craft](#) videos have been also been featured on [Free Technology for Teachers](#) in the past with explanations of how they can be used in the classroom.

Browse videos at <http://commoncraft.com/>

See for example the videos explaining Social networking at: <http://commoncraft.com/video-social-networking>

WIKIPEDIA SPIN-OFFS:

CITIZENDIUM: The [Citizendium](#) is, in some people's minds, an improvement over Wikipedia. Everyone has a story about or has heard about Wikipedia's early struggles with unchecked and unreliable editing and contributions. Unfortunately, Wikipedia still suffers from that stigma. The [Citizendium](#), which was started by one of the Wikipedia founders, aims to create a free reliable online encyclopedia. [Citizendium](#) requires that authors and editors use their real names and submit a C.V. to prove their expertise on a topic. The [Citizendium](#) is in its infancy right now, only 5,000 articles, but those articles are reliable. Like Wikipedia, the [Citizendium](#) provides links to related topics and to cited sources.

Application for Educators:

The [Citizendium](#) is a good online reference for everything that a typical encyclopedia would provide. The [Citizendium's](#) advantage over an encyclopedia found on a bookshelf is that the [Citizendium](#) is constantly evolving to account for new discoveries and developments. I feel comfortable directing students to the [Citizendium](#) as a general reference. The links provided within each general reference article are good and reliable for further study within a topic.

SCHOLARPEDIA: <http://scholarpedia.org>

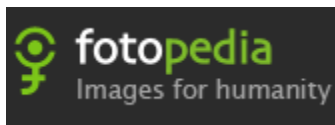
The idea behind Scholarpedia is to provide peer-reviewed and academically authoritative commentary that no one can edit further, except recognized scholars in the subject area under consideration. These are the prominent differences between Scholarpedia and Wikipedia: (taken from the Scholarpedia Website.)

In Scholarpedia:

- . Each article is written by an [expert](#) ([elected](#) by the public or invited by Scholarpedia editors).
- . Each article is anonymously peer reviewed to ensure accurate and reliable information.

- . Each article has a [curator](#) -- typically its author -- who is responsible for its content.
- . Any modification of the article needs to be approved by the curator before it appears in the final, *approved* version. This ensures accurate and reliable information.

[Courseopedia](#) is a new resource designed to help students find college course offerings by location or course subject. [Courseopedia](#) aggregates course offerings from colleges and puts them into their database. The database can then be searched by program, subject, or location. The service is new so the offerings are somewhat limited, but it's a good concept and I hope [Courseopedia](#) expands.



[Fotopedia](#) is a service that matches photos to Wikipedia articles. The matching aspect is similar to that of Navify. What makes [Fotopedia](#) different is all of the images are contributed by the community of users and matched to articles by users of [Fotopedia](#). To contribute to [Fotopedia](#) you have to register, but to just browse the images and articles doesn't require registration.



[EyePlover](#) is a reference search engine that takes your original search term then displays related terms in a circle around your original search term. Clicking on each related term reveals more information from Wikipedia about that term. If the information is something that you want to save for later use, you can drag the information onto your [EyePlover](#) notebook.



[Placeopedia](#) is a website that provides additional context for Wikipedia entries through Google Maps. Placeopedia connects Wikipedia articles with their locations. Click on any placemark on Placeopedia's map and you will be linked to a Wikipedia article about that place.

[NIBIPEDIA](#) is the result of matching Wikipedia entries to YouTube videos. Here is how it works, search for a video and while you're watching that video you will see links to related Wikipedia content as well as more related videos.

YOUTUBE SPIN-OFFs:

30 ALTERNATIVES TO YOUTUBE: <http://www.freotech4teachers.com/2009/06/30-alternatives-to-youtube.html>

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS on YOUTUBE: [The Library of Congress is Now on YouTube](#)

THE U.S. GOVERNMENT ON YOUTUBE: <http://www.youtube.com/USGovernment>

U.S. NATIONAL ARCHIVES ON YOUTUBE:

<http://www.youtube.com/USNationalArchives>

For More information, see <http://www.archives.gov/press/press-releases/2009/nr09-95.html>

GOOGLE ADVANCES:

Google Begins to Make Public Data Searchable



Google just [announced](#) its first foray into making public data searchable and viewable in graph form. The company is starting with population and unemployment data from around the US but promises to make far more data sets searchable in the future. The potential significance of making aggregate data about our world easy to visualize, cross reference and compare can't be overstated.

Most of us understand the world based on stories we've put together from our own lived experience. Another way to understand things is by finding patterns drawn from everyone's experience in aggregate. Journalists often find big patterns and then zoom in to particular life stories that exemplify those general trends but make them easier for us to relate to as individuals. Those stories then help move public opinion in favor of policies that aim to change the general trends. That's just one way that easily searchable public data can be very, very important.



Today, Google [unveiled](#) the [Google News Timeline](#). The [Google News Timeline](#) could become a fantastic resource for anyone that teaches current events and or 20th - 21st Century history. The [Google News Timeline](#) allows you to search for news stories by event, a person's name, or by date. In the example below I searched for "John F. Kennedy, 11/22/63."



Applications for Education

The [Google News Timeline](#) could be a very useful research tool for history and current events students. Through the use of the timeline, students will be able to choose an event then read about the lead-up and aftermath of that event. For example, if a student picked "fall of the Berlin wall" they could use the [Google News Timeline](#) to read news accounts of the days prior to the fall of the wall and the days following the fall. The timeline will also display links to current writing on the student's chosen topic.

GOOGLE BOOKS: NEW FEATURES: <http://booksearch.blogspot.com/2009/06/new-features-on-google-books.html> (Now, it is as easy to embed a [Google Book](#) as it is to embed a YouTube video. Simply copy and paste the code and the book appears in your blog or other social media application.)

GOOGLE DOCS AND IDEAS FOR TEACHERS: TEACHER SUPPORT FROM GOOGLE: GOOGLE DOCS FOR TEACHERS: <http://docs.google.com/support/bin/answer.py?hl=en&answer=134592>

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS: NEW FEATURES AND APPLICATIONS:

[New\(er\) Library of Congress Teachers' Page](#)

The teacher's page is arranged thematically with links to lesson plans, special collections, and primary source sets. In addition to these new collections and lesson plans, the LOC is developing a set of [self-directed professional development tutorials](#).

The purpose of the tutorials is to help teachers develop their knowledge of and skills for teaching with primary sources. Not all of the modules are live yet, but they should be live in time for the new school year this fall. This site contains timesaving classroom materials, Lesson Plans and Professional Development modules for teacher advancement.

Applications for Education

The collections on the [Library of Congress](#) Teachers website are still a bit cumbersome to navigate, but the new(er) teachers' page is an improvement toward making it more accessible to teachers.

Application for Education: Teachers will find many classroom materials, Lesson Plans and ideas using this site. Students will also benefit from browsing the vast resources of the Library of Congress and finding so many free online resources.

Library of Congress for Researchers: LIBRARY OF CONGRESS RESEARCH TOOLS
<http://www.loc.gov/rr/tools.html> (GREAT TOOL FOR RESEARCHERS, OR THOSE STARTING RESEARCH!)

Library of Congress: Browse Resources by Topic: LIBRARY OF CONGRESS: BROWSE RESOURCES BY TOPIC: <http://www.loc.gov/topics/>

Law Library of Congress Page on the U.S. CONSTITUTION, POWERS OF THE U.S. PRESIDENCY and MILITARY TRIBUNALS: <http://www.loc.gov/law/help/usconlaw/index.php>

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July 23 2009